

President prior to being elected to Congress. "Service Above Self" is the motto of the Corona Rotary Club, and it is a tradition that I would like to see continue for another 75 years. On behalf of all the residents of the 43rd Congressional District, I would like to thank the Corona Rotary Club for its contributions and dedicated service to the community, and wish them great success with their 75th anniversary celebration.

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET  
McCord

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I ask my colleagues to join me to honor the memory of an outstanding pillar of our community. Margaret McCord devoted her life to the improvement of life in her community and in Brooklyn at large. She was an activist, a civic leader and friend to all.

I knew Margaret McCord from my early days in elected office. For many years I observed first hand this individual work tirelessly on behalf of the community, especially dedicating herself to the preservation of Sheepshead Bay. Over twenty years ago, she spearheaded the designation of Sheepshead Bay as a Special Zoning District. She also actively sought to get landmark designation for various businesses in her community such as Lundy's Restaurant.

Her leadership was and still is an inspiration for us all and extends well beyond the reaches of her neighborhood. She was very involved in all activities of the Sheepshead Bay—Plumb Beach Civic organization and contributed greatly to its success as a leading civic association.

I ask my colleagues to join me in posthumously recognizing Margaret McCord for the rich and full life she led, and for the good works that made her an invaluable asset to the community. Her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of those who were fortunate enough to have been graced by her presence.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL KRAUSE

**HON. JIM RAMSTAD**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 1998*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest players in the history of the National Football League.

Paul Krause of Lakeville, Minnesota, was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, this great honor is a truly fitting tribute to an athlete who revolutionized the position of safety in the NFL over 16 seasons, four with the Redskins right here in Washington and the last 12 with out Minnesota Vikings, before he retired after the 1982 season.

Former Vikings Coach and Minnesota Legend Bud Grant—a Hall of Famer himself—put it best when he wrote in Paul's nominating letter: "He had the athletic ability plus the in-

stincts to be the best free safety I have ever coached or watched play in the NFL."

Vikings fans everywhere across this great nation—and that includes the distinguished Majority Leader!—are overjoyed and extremely proud about this most well-deserved honor for the greatest free safety in NFL history.

Paul Krause's 81 interceptions over 16 NFL seasons remain the standard of excellence for defensive backs and a number which appears as unreachable as Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak and Babe Ruth's 60 homers in 154 games.

The famous sports question, "Who is Wally Pipp?" pales in comparison to "Who was Marlin McKeever?" The answer, of course, is McKeever was the player traded to the Redskins in 1968 for Krause. Our Nation's Capital had to wait until 1973 to get to the Super Bowl. The Vikings made it just two years following Krause's arrival in Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Iowa and then Vikings Assistant Coach Jerry Burns—who was familiar with Krause from coaching him at the University of Iowa—for the blessing of having Paul Krause in the defensive backfield for all those years in Minnesota.

People who rise to the top of their professions like Paul Krause often accomplish remarkable things after they leave the playing field.

Mr. Speaker, Paul is a real leader in his community. He was elected to the Dakota County Board, one of the Twin Cities-area's biggest counties.

But over the last two years, he has accomplished much, much more in the biggest struggle of his life.

Two years ago, his wife Pam suffered a serious brain injury in a car accident that nearly claimed her life. The injury put her in a deep coma.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to Paul's relentless efforts, Pam's courage and their amazing commitment to each other, Pam is making miracles happen every day.

In fact, Pam accompanied her husband, who does extensive charity work, to San Diego to participate in the annual "Taste of the NFL" event, which is held in the Super Bowl city each year to raise much-needed money for various causes.

Paul Krause has been eligible for election to the Hall of Fame since 1987. This good thing was a long time coming. Pam was there when the Hall of Fame voting announcement was made public.

"That was a pretty good phone call," Paul said in recounting the good news on Saturday. "It's been a very, very difficult two years for us as a family. This year, Pam came to the Super Bowl with me and said, 'This is the year.' It's very important to them. I wanted to make it for them."

Mr. Speaker, all Minnesotans are extremely proud of Paul Krause. We wish Paul and Pam and their family the very best in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY FOR  
THE DEAF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the founders of the Society for the Deaf in

Fairview Park, Ohio, Florence Toma and Noreen Chambers.

Florence and Noreen, both mothers of deaf children, were introduced to each other through various activities in which their children were involved. They became friends and were actively involved, along with other individuals, in establishing the Society for the Deaf. They both served on the Board of the Society until their deaths. They were both strong advocates for the education of deaf individuals.

It is fitting that ongoing scholarships to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. are being established which will continue their goal of education. Gallaudet University is the only liberal arts university in the world designed exclusively for the deaf and hard of hearing. Students come from around the world to participate in all aspects of the thriving campus life and the wide range of academic programs. Thanks to Florence Toma and Noreen Chambers and the Society for the Deaf, these scholarships will give deaf individuals the opportunity to receive a quality education at Gallaudet University and experience the cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity of its campus community for years to come.

THE 105TH CONGRESS

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 1998*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 26, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 105TH CONGRESS

The first session of the 105th Congress ended on November 13, one of the earliest adjournments in decades. There is a strong feeling in Congress that the more we stay at work the less the public likes us, and that may be reflected in the early adjournment date. The first half of the year was productive, but in the second half Congress was increasingly deadlocked and partisan. The session was marked by one major legislative accomplishment, a few more modest ones, and much unfinished business left over for next year.

**Balanced Budget Agreement:** The most important achievement of this session of Congress was the deal to balance the federal budget. A balanced budget agreement has long eluded policymakers, and for the past several years deficit politics has dominated the congressional agenda. The 1993 deficit reduction package, which I supported, has helped reduce the deficit from a record \$290 billion in 1992 to \$23 billion for 1997. The balanced budget package approved in July would finish the task and produce a balanced budget by 2002, if not sooner. If the government has to borrow less to finance deficits, then pressure on interest rates will lessen, and many things—from home mortgages to care loans—will be made cheaper. This budget deal made history and both parties deserve some credit for it.

The budget package also included provisions that fulfilled the objectives of some politicians who wanted middle-class and capital gains tax cuts, and other politicians who wanted increased aid for education and health insurance for poor children. Although the package did contain major budget savings from trimming payments to Medicare

providers and reining in discretionary spending, the agreement was basically made possible by the sudden discovery of \$225 billion in new revenue from the strong growth of the U.S. economy.

Many taxpayers will benefit from the tax breaks in the budget package. A new individual retirement account, the Roth IRA, was established and regular IRAs were expanded. Most families with children under 17 got a \$400 per child tax cut rising to \$500 in 1999. Eleven new educational tax cuts will become available. Capital gains taxes will be lower and the amount of inheritance exempted from estate taxes will rise for family farms and small businesses to \$1.3 million.

Although the budget package was disappointing in pushing off the whole question of decisive entitlement reform, it did improve the short-term outlook for Medicare—keeping it healthy for the next decade. Medicare beneficiaries will have the option of enrolling in a managed care plan, will receive expanded preventive care benefits, and face somewhat higher premiums for doctor services. In addition, the budget package provides \$24 billion to states to expand their health coverage to low-income uninsured children.

**Other Measures Passed:** The 105th Congress started with an explosion of activity on ethics. Speaker Gingrich was reprimanded and fined—the strongest punishment ever given by the House to its presiding officer. The House simply did not look good in the way it handled the investigation.

The Senate approved a treaty to ban the production and use of chemical weapons, and the House rejected an attempt to punish China by ending its normal trade status. Some of the welfare benefits that were cut to illegal immigrants were restored, and Congress avoided deportation of Central American refugees who fled during civil strife.

Congress passed legislation to overhaul Amtrak, clearing the way for the release of \$2.3 billion in subsidies. It also approved legislation to speed adoption of children in foster care and to speed up Food and Drug Administration approval of new drugs and medical devices. It also passed a ban on "partial-birth" abortions, which the President vetoed. It took on some of the cost burdens of the District of Columbia while reducing local powers, and it approved a new gold-colored dollar coin and 50 new quarters commemorating each state. The President and Congress struck a compromise on the 2000 census, allowing the Administration to experiment with statistical sampling while giving opponents opportunity to challenge it in court. This session Congress did manage to process and negotiate all of its fiscal year 1998 appropriation bills without vetoes or threatened government shutdowns.

**Unfinished Business:** Further action is needed on a bill passed by both houses to loosen federal controls over public housing. The House approved a bill to create an outside management board for the IRS and to strengthen taxpayer protections, but the Senate has not yet taken it up. Congress delayed field testing of President Clinton's proposal for national math and reading tests while alternatives are considered.

As usual, the first session of Congress left a long list of bills not acted upon. In a stunning defeat to the President, Congress shelved fast-track trade negotiating authority in the face of likely defeat by the House. Neither house passed campaign finance reform or legislation to implement and possibly broaden the proposed deal reforming the tobacco industry. Both houses put off until next year a six-year reauthorization of transportation policy.

Congress did not pay overdue U.S. dues to the United Nations, provide new credit for

the International Monetary Fund, or reorganize the U.S. foreign policy agencies. Other measures awaiting action are Superfund reform, Social Security privatization, tax reform, product liability, clean air, nuclear waste, endangered species, education savings accounts, NATO expansion, and troops in Bosnia.

**Conclusion:** With the huge to-do list awaiting Congress when it returns in January, any grade after the first session has to be "incomplete." The actual accomplishments of the session are modest, perhaps even below average. Even the budget agreement does less than proponents claim. The large tax cut was mainly for better-off taxpayers. And to balance the budget, Congress mainly coasted on a very strong economy and postponed many of the specific spending cuts for another day. That's always the easy way to cut the budget.

The closing weeks of the session saw a return to sharp partisanship, as the extreme elements of each party got fed up with the cooperation that marked the first half of the year. As we begin the second session of the 105th Congress, that partisanship might well continue, making action on the important issues facing Congress all the more difficult.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES EDWARD HARPE

##### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 1998*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Edward Harpe, who will be honored for his service as the 1997 President of the Conejo Valley Association of Realtors.

During his term as President, Ed has worked to ensure that the Conejo Valley Association of Realtors is up-to-date on the latest technological advancements. A strong advocate of technological training for the Association and its staff, Ed has introduced educational seminars, specialized computer training classes, e-mail and faxing capacity to the office. The creation of a web page has made the Association more accessible to the general public.

Ed has also worked with the Equal Opportunity committee to produce a Forum on Fair Housing, which is televised on the local government channel in our community. As a result of this effort, realtors, businesses and members of the Conejo Valley community will be better educated about issues involved with fair housing.

In addition to the work Ed has done as President, he has played an active role in the Association for several years. These activities include: Chairman of the Long Range Planning, Blue Ribbon and Building/Property advisory committees; participation on Professional Standards Panels and others.

I would like to commend Ed for this distinguished list of accomplishments throughout his career. With a clear vision and strong initiative, Ed has implemented programs which will positively impact the Association for years to come. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to James Edward Harpe for his leadership efforts and dedication to our community.

#### CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 1998*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Congregation Beth Simchat Torah is New York City's only, and the world's largest, gay and lesbian synagogue, and on February 7th is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

This remarkable congregation started with barely enough for a minyan (ten people) in a borrowed room at a neighborhood Episcopal Church. The Kiddush cup, some candles and challah used in the ceremony were carried to the services in a shopping bag.

The congregation grew by word of mouth and small ads in the local weekly newspaper. Slowly, at first, the number of congregants grew so that it was large enough to have to move to another church in the neighborhood for the High Holy Days. By 1975 it was clear that they needed still more space so a large loft was rented and the congregation moved into it that year. The following year it got its first Torah on "permanent loan" from a Bronx congregation. In 1977 Congregation Beth Simchat Torah hosted the Second International Conference on Lesbian and Gay Jews and that year a second Torah was acquired.

Talmud and Hebrew classes were expanded and over the next few years the High Holy Day crowds approached a 1,000. By 1992 Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum was hired and more than 2,200 people attended Yom Kippur services.

This dynamic congregation has served its community with distinction. With Rabbi Kleinbaum, it looks forward to greater community involvement, future growth and a continuance of its traditional/creative liturgy.

#### HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS

##### HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the citizens of Baytown, Texas, which Saturday celebrated its 50th anniversary. Approximately 400 citizens, including Mayor Pete Alfaro and former Houston Mayor and Baytown native Bob Lanier, celebrated that event in the Baytown Community Center. Also present were current and past mayors and members of the City Council and other distinguished and longtime Baytonians for what was described as a family reunion for the City of Baytown.

There was much to celebrate for, in fifty years, Baytown has steadily grown into one of the most vibrant communities in Texas.

The roots of the town go back more than half a century to three rival communities—Baytown, Pelly, and Goose Creek—huddled on the north shore of Galveston Bay around the Humble Oil refinery, one of the largest refineries in the world. The feud peaked in 1945 when Baytown, then an unincorporated community, was annexed by Pelly, angering some